

October 10, 2007

On CHURCH and CHURCHES, a discussion of recent teaching  
from the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,  
summer 2007

20 participants.

Connie and Firmin Widmer  
John and Chris Heatherman  
Brennan Hill  
Margaret Quinn  
David Kitchings  
Sue Wilke  
Jim and Debbie Weber  
Fran and Mike Harmon  
Andrew Curran  
Tony and Barb Dardy  
Greg Olberding and Sally Fellerhoff  
Amy Vennemeyer  
Kent Beausoleil  
Richard Bollman facilitating

Presenting Questions:

What stirs you now about this question and event, concerning the nature of the Church and the Churches. What moves you, what does this stem from? (Small groups of 4 or 5)

What does this suggest for further work now? (Large group)

Much more was said than could be recorded, but the main themes follow:

## **HERE IS WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO ME, WHAT I WRESTLE WITH:**

1. I feel set back about my value of inclusiveness as a Catholic, something I think is the spirit of our Church, and parish, and the Vatican Council.
2. I'm embarrassed by the pain and negativity this public announcement has caused.
3. What's important to me is simply Living the Gospel, and I find this in many people of faith.
4. I have come to value other faiths and other people, and am put off by the implications of words like "defective," or not "true churches."
5. Can I stand with the official teaching of the Catholic Church? The Roman Church? American Church? World Church? How do I get clear about this teaching?
6. I see my young adult children drifting from the Church I know and love because they get so little good information about Catholicism.

## **HERE IS WHAT I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT.**

1. What have the theologians said about the 2007 clarifications from the Vatican, or about "Dominus Jesus" in 2000?
2. I'd like to learn more about the other Christian Churches, how we are the same or different, what people make of this, how they live their faith.
3. How do we live the Gospel, live the faith we have?
4. I'd like to listen to other Catholic points of view, those who feel more fundamentally "orthodox" in their practice.
5. How do I get connected to what is truly foundational in Catholicism? If I were to become a Catholic, from another church, what would I be saying YES to?

## **THIS IS WHAT I WANT FOR US AS A PARISH, AND FOR MYSELF**

1. I want to build bridges with the local Christian Churches.
2. I want to know clearly where we stand as Catholics, and as Christians.
3. I want to be authentically connected to my Christian (Catholic, Lutheran, etc.) roots.